

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4425

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSELS

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS DAR ES SLAAM 1197

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, CU, CG

SUBJ: FIDEL CASTRO PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1162 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE IN MARCH 22 ISSUE OF TANZANIA DAILY NEWS, COVERING FIDEL CASTRO'S PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 21. ARTICLE IS HEADLINED: "NO CUBAN SOLDIERS IN ZAIRE, SAYS FIDEL".

2. BEGIN TEXT: CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO SAID IN DAR ES SALAAM YESTERDAY THAT CUBAN SOLDIERS ARE NOT INVOLVED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FIGHTING IN ZAIRE.

ADDRESSING A PRESS CONFERENCE AT STATE HOUSE YESTERDAY MINUTES BEFORE HE LEFT FOR ZAMBIA, THE CUBAN LEADER DECLARED "THERE ISN'T A SINGLE CUBAN SOLDIER FIGHTING IN ZAIRE. WE HAVE NEITHER TRAINED NOR ARMED THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CURRENTLY FIGHTING AGAINST MOBUTU."

NDUGU CASTRO EXPLAINED THAT WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN ZAIRE WAS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM, REFLECTING WEAKNESS OF THE MOBUTU REGIME.

"ACCUSATIONS THAT CUBA IS INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING IN ZAIRE ARE MADE IN ORDER TO SOLICIT THE SUPPORT OF IMPERIALISM," HE ADDED.

ON THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, NDUGU CASTRO SAID THAT IT IS THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WHO HAVE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY OF FREEING THEMSELVES.

"IT IS NOT CUBA'S INTENTION TO SEND SOLDIERS TO FREE ANY PART OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. INDEPENDENCE IS NEVER DELIVERED FROM ABROAD; THE PEOPLE CONCERNED MUST FIGHT FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE," HE SAID.

CUBA'S SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE EXPLAINED, IS BASED ON REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES.

"IT IS THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THE FRONTLINE STATES WHO WILL DETERMINE THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA," HE SAID.

THE CUBAN LEADER SAID THAT IMPERIALISM WAS PARTICULARLY HARSH IN LATIN AMERICA WHERE PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS LIKE THAT OF CHILE HAD BEEN OVERTHROWN, REVOLUTIONARY CADRES ASSASSINATED AND THE PEOPLE EXPLOITED MORE CRUELY.

HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA WAS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE SITUATION IN AFRICA BECAUSE "LATIN AMERICA HAS A STRONG UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONAL BOURGEOISIE, A LANDED OLIGARCHY AND FASCIST REGIMES THAT ARE TRAINED AND ARMED TO OPPRESS THE PEOPLE."

NEVERTHELESS, THE CUBAN LEADER EMPHASISED, THE STRUGGLE WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL VICTORY.

ON REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS SEEKING TO NORMALISE RELATIONS WITH CUBA, THE CUBAN PRESIDENT SAID THAT IT IS THE UNITED STATES THAT HAS ALL ALONG PROVOKED HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

"IF THE UNITED STATES RENOUNCES HOSTILITIES, LIFTS THE BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA AND UPHOLDS THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WE SHALL BE READY TO NORMALISE RELATIONS," HE SAID.

ON HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE DURING HIS THREE DAY VISIT TO TANZANIA, NDUGU CASTRO, SAID THAT THEY DISCUSSED MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST "ESPECIALLY THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM.

HE THANKED THE PEOPLE OF TANZANIA FOR WARM WELCOME HE HAD RECEIVED AND PLEDGED TO CONTINUE THE MILITANT FRIENDSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE, NDUGUR CASTRO, ACCOMPANIED BY MWALIMU AND OTHER PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS DROVE TO THE AIRPORT.

HE WAS ACCORDED A WARM SAND OF BY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAD TURNED UP AT THE AIRPORT.

CUBAN LEADE FIDEL CASTRO ARRIVED IN MOZAMBIQUE TODAY. THE MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY SAID PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL WELCOMED THE CUBAN LEADER AT THE AIRPORT IN BEIRA, MOZAMBIQUE'S SECOND LARGEST CITY.
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